

COMMON COUNCIL
Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
Evansville Youth Center, 209 South First Street

MINUTES

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Mayor Sandy Decker.
2. **Roll Call.** Members present: Mayor Sandy Decker, Alderpersons Jim Brooks, Ben Ladick, Gene Lewis, Josh Manring, James Montgomery, and Erika Stuart. Alderpersons Matt Brown and Rick Cole were absent. Others present: City Administrator/Finance Director Ian Rigg, City Clerk/Treasurer Judy Walton, City Attorney Mark Kopp, Library Director Megan Kloeckner (left at 9:30 a.m.), Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, Police Chief Scott McElroy, Municipal Services Superintendent Mark Sendelbach, and Youth Center Director Becky Bartlett (left at 9:10 a.m.).
3. **Approval of Agenda.** Manring made a motion, seconded by Ladick to approve the agenda. Motion approved 8-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** Manring made a motion, seconded by Lewis to defer the reading of the minutes of the February 9, 2016 regular meeting to the next regular meeting. Motion approved 6-0.
5. **Civility reminder.** Recognition of the commitment to civility and decorum at city meetings.
6. **Citizen appearances.** None
7. **Basics.** Decker covered the practical matters including restrooms, time keeper, breaks, the A-ha sheet, and parking lot.
8. **Opening round.** Each attendee introduced themselves and shared something they learned in the past year that has helped them in their position.
 - Attended a Regional Youth Center meeting and learned a procedure for obtaining information sheets.
 - Construction.
 - Leave time, FMLA, and disability.
 - Not to be too complacent.
 - Road project process.
 - The value of team members and sharing information.
 - The workings of the wastewater treatment.
 - Long term planning.
 - You never know enough about leadership.
 - How to reach out when feeling overwhelmed.
 - Technology.
 - The value of continuing education.

9. **Update on Ehlers Public Finance Seminar.** Rigg, Sergeant, and Brooks attended the seminar. Highlights included: learning about the different types of borrowing in order to save money; how to prepare for new businesses that may require additional infrastructure; identifying areas with positive and negative trends; changing our financial planning by starting early with capital planning instead of leaving that to the end; and revisiting policies annually to ensure they still make sense.
10. **Tour of Youth Center facility.** The facility is old. Former uses included a grocery store, retail, and daycare. AWARE is also in the building but separate from the Youth Center. Repairs needed include the roof, carpet, uneven floors, water damage to the floor and ceiling, and electrical. Support poles infringe on the game area, the building is very musty smelling, furniture is old, and it has very small areas that are not suitable to accommodate all the kids.
11. **Eager Free Public Library expansion update.**
 - a. Sergeant learned there is a new contact for the Post Office relocation project so there is some catch up to do. The current lease ends December, 2017 and they should have a definite plan by December, 2016.
 - b. Kloeckner reported they have started the basics for fundraising. Next week the Library Board and Municipal Services Committee will have a joint meeting so everyone is on the same page.
12. **Smart Growth discussion.**
 - a. Decker shared that she learned the most energy efficient school we have is the middle school. Jerry Roth has looked at using the existing location, expanding the land size, adding to the school, and keeping the existing building. A concern would be if the building was taken down and a new school built in a different location as that would leave a big hole in that area, affecting both the neighborhood and the Youth Center.
 - b. Decker said we have been approached by several different groups with ideas for West Side Park and Leonard-Leota Park. A master plan is needed so things are placed in the proper location and there aren't duplications.
 - c. Sergeant reported that interim uses for the Bauer property could perhaps include a path along the creek, plant some grass, picnic tables, allow for public use (perhaps the farmers market), but make it clear that development is anticipated.
 - d. There are upcoming amendments to the sidewalk and signage ordinances. Sargent stated they are difficult amendments because references in the code are out of date.
 - e. Rigg reported RFP's for a new website are out. We need to decide on a template or customized site; enable mass text messaging in the event of emergencies or cancellations; and the #1 goal is for the content management system (CMS).
13. **State and Federal advocacy issues.** Brooks listed a number of the organizations that do advocacy on our behalf. He stated advocacy done on the local elected official's level is important and effective. He talked about several topics that our Council has advocated for and added that advocacy is not politics, it is doing what is right for the city.
14. **Break.** A 15 minute break was taken at 10:10 a.m.

- 15. Discussion of previous parking lot items.** Decker stated these items are not on the agenda to find resolution but are items we don't want to lose sight of.
- a. Abandonment of large format buildings and what do we do when a business walks away. An example given was of the old Menards facility in Janesville.
 - b. Property maintenance ordinance. Many people that spoke at the Historic Preservation ordinance amendment public hearing said they would like to see something on the books. Sergeant stated the focus should be on general descriptions (peeling paint, junk in the yard, etc.). The hard part will be enforcement and we will need provisions for those that cannot afford the cleanup or repair.
 - c. Decker distributed an article from the Janesville Gazette that discussed the possibility of county-wide fire service.

- 16. City DNR wetland challenges and economic development impacts.** Sergeant distributed a handout that included a wetland screening map that shows several areas affected including Windmill Ridge and Lot 30.

Rigg reported that work is being done on the storm water ordinance that would create a credit policy.

- a. Brooks reported the Municipal Services Committee expanded the list of potential capital projects. He gave an update on the 1st Street project which included addressing parking by the Masonic Temple; whether to add Montgomery Court to the project; and improving the parking lot by BMO Harris Bank.

17. Check out.

- a. Building inspector, fire district, commuter transit, and grant writing were placed in the parking lot for future discussion.
- b. A-ha sheets, insights to share. None were given.
- c. Attendees were asked "In your position with the City of Evansville, what innovative goal do you personally want to accomplish for our community?"
 - Hold a summit to bring together the Youth Center, BASE, 4-H, and schools.
 - Adding free Wi-Fi in the city.
 - See more development and urban renewal to balance the community out.
 - Utilize our buildings to their extent and see an incubator started.
 - Would like to see a lighting ordinance.
 - More power underground.
 - Promote disc golf to the youth.
 - Building a team was a previous goal and we have gotten there.
 - See Westside Park developed.
 - Cemetery software.
 - Invest the time and training to continue to be more efficient.
 - Prepare our financials as more of a projection.
 - Give more attention to our municipal court.
 - Streamline the process to get information to people.
 - Focus on efficiency and cost sharing.

- 18. Adjournment.** Manring made a motion, seconded by Ladick to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.
Motion approved 6-0.

Judy Walton, City Clerk/Treasurer